
VIII. *Some Remarks on the Synonyms and native Country of Hypericum calycinum.* By J. E. Smith, M.D., F.R.S., and P.L.S.

Read March 21, 1809.

TOWARDS the end of last August I received from Mr. Hincks, Secretary to the Cork Institution, a specimen of *Hypericum calycinum*, gathered, by Mr. Drummond, Curator of the botanic garden near that city, about three miles from Cork in the road to Bandon, where these gentlemen assure me the plant in question grows wild in great abundance. This communication led me to investigate the reputed places of growth of this species, as well as of the *Hypericum Ascyron*, with which Linnæus and some other botanists have confounded it. This confusion was first publicly corrected in the *Hortus Kewensis*, v. 3. 103, where the synonyms of the *calycinum* are rightly given. Two years afterwards Mr. Curtis published this plant in his *Magazine*, v. 5. t. 146, judiciously adopting the corrections in the *Hortus Kewensis*, but relapsing into an old error in quoting Bauhin's *Ascyrum magno flore*. The occurrence of this quotation chiefly excited in my mind a desire to investigate the whole subject; for I must honestly confess that, as Bauhin's plant was gathered by Burser on the Pyrenean mountains, I should have been glad to have found it the same with our Irish one, as confirming the wildness of the latter. My first object therefore was to determine the plant
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of Bauhin, described in his *Prodromus*, p. 130, from Burser's specimen, and therefore to be ascertained by the herbarium of the latter at Upsal. On turning to Linnæus's own copy of Bauhin, I found a mark indicating that he had made this inquiry, and the result is recorded in an unpublished manuscript note in the first edition of his *Species Plantarum* to the following effect: "The true Linnæan *Hypericum Ascyron* is the same with that of Burser. Its stem is perfectly straight and altogether herbaceous. If therefore the plant of Wheeler be shrubby and inclining, it is certainly another species."

In consequence of this discovery of Linnæus, the synonym of Wheeler is not given under *H. Ascyron* in the second edition of *Sp. Pl.*, though that of Morison is still retained, Linnæus not having perceived that Morison figures Wheeler's plant, while the latter part of his description only belongs to it, the former being transcribed from Bauhin's *Prodromus*. Such faults are common in writers who work on the plan of Morison, and he errs also in mentioning Mount Olympus as the place where Sir George Wheeler gathered his plant. But though Linnæus rejected Wheeler's synonym for his *H. Ascyron*, he has not either referred it to any other old species, nor described it afresh as a new one, at least in the *Sp. Plantarum*. In his *Mantissa* indeed, p. 106, he has described the species in question by the new name of *Hypericum calycinum*, but without any synonym; and he had now so totally forgotten his former note, and the reference to Wheeler's *Journey*, that he gives North America, with a doubt, as the native country of his *calycinum*. This was a mere guess, devoid of all foundation. The specimens of this species in his herbarium appear to be garden ones; so does the original authentic one of his *H. Ascyron*, though to the latter he has pinned a plant raised by Gronovius from Pennsylvanian seed, which is *H. pyramidatum* of *Hort. Kew.* recently

recently figured by Ventenat in his splendid *Jardin de la Malmaison*, t. 118; as well as two wild Siberian specimens of the plant figured by Gmelin, v. 4. t. 69. This last figure is quoted in the second *Mantissa*, p. 455, for *H. Ascyron*, which Gmelin thought it to be, perhaps rightly; but the calyx is much larger than usual, and very unequal, so as to raise a doubt in my mind. The main point, however, respecting our present inquiry is established, that the true *H. Ascyron*, which is the *Ascyron magno flore*, Bauh. Pin. 280, Prod. 130, is a native of the Pyrenees; perhaps also of moist meadows in Siberia. My next object was to ascertain what Tournefort understood by the above phrase of Bauhin, adopted in his *Institutiones Rei Herbariæ*, 256, under which he quotes Morison, who, as I have said, confounds two species together. This question is decided by Tournefort's t. 131, f. 2, evidently drawn from *H. Ascyron* and not from *H. calycinum*, which last it appears Tournefort never knew, otherwise he could not have passed it over. The next botanist after Sir George Wheeler who gathered *H. calycinum* wild was the late Professor John Sibthorp, who found it in the woods about the village of Belgrad near Constantinople, no doubt the same place where Wheeler first discovered it. The situation is not unlike that near Cork where Mr. Drummond found our specimen, sheltered, and of no considerable elevation, with a southern exposure towards the sea. Dr. Sibthorp has left a figure of this plant for the *Flora Græca*, which is one of Mr. Ferdinand Bauer's most exquisite drawings; but he mistook it for *H. Ascyron*, and has therefore quoted Tournefort's synonym above mentioned. No other plant in this writer's *Institutiones* or *Corollarium*, as far as I can discover, can possibly be referred to *H. calycinum*. Ventenat determined his *Ascyrum erectum, salicis folio, magno flore*, Inst. 256, by Jussieu's herbarium, to be *H. pyramidatum*.

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It seems therefore that *H. calycinum*, though so commonly cultivated in the English gardens and shrubberies, to which Sir George Wheeler introduced it in 1676, has not been found wild in any other part of the world than at Belgrad near Constantinople, and between Cork and Bandon in Ireland ; two situations, though remote from each other, and differing about ten degrees in-latitude, not unlike with respect to their exposure. We know moreover, by daily experience, that the plant under consideration is able to bear a much colder climate than either. In consequence of the above discovery, the *Hypericum calycinum* will make the first plate in the 29th volume of *English Botany*.

Norwich, March 15, 1809.